

Appl. No.: 10/689,580
Amdt. dated 10/27/2005
Reply to Office action of June 27, 2005

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated June 27, 2005. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. In light of the Office Action, Applicant has amended several of the claims per the Examiner's suggestions to clarify the claims. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as currently presented are patentable over the cited references. As such, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the application in light of the following remarks.

I. Claims 1-15 Are Allowed

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 1-15 are allowed.

II. Claims Having Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 26, 27, 30, 32, 34-43, 45-49, 56, 57, 59, 63, 65-74, 76-80, 83-87, 89-92, 94, 95, 103, and 106 include allowable subject matter. In light of this favorable indication, Applicant has rewritten Claims 26, 27, 32, 34, 35, 36, 39, and 41 in independent form. Further, Applicant has amended independent Claim 82 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 83 and amended independent Claim 88 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 89. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims, as well as any claims that depend therefrom, are patentable. In other words, Claims 26, 27, 32, 34-43, and 82-92 are now patentable.

III. The Claims Are in Proper Form

On pages 2-3, the Office Action raised objections to form of several claims. Applicant has amended the objected claims in line with the Examiner's recommendations.¹ Applicant

¹ Applicant notes that none of the amendments to the claims were made in light of the prior art. Instead, the amendments were made merely to clarify the invention.

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respectfully submits that Claims 16-21, 23-29, 51-57, 60, 61, 81, 88, 93, 94, 96-105 are now in proper form.

IV. The Rejected Claims Are Patentable

On page 5, the Office Action rejects Claims 16-25, 28, 29, 31, 33, 44, 50-55, 58, 60-62, 64, 75, 81, 82, 88, 93, 96, 97-102, 104, and 105 as obvious in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,813,073 to Korbonski in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,982,469 to Nishiwaki. The Office Action alleges that the '073 Korbonski patent discloses all aspects of the claims except for attachment of the cleaning device to a printer. The Office Action argues, however, that the '469 Nishiwaki patent discloses a cleaning device connected to a printer and that it would be obvious to combine the references. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The present invention relates to a replaceable cleaning cartridge for use in a printer. The cartridge includes a first cleaning component positioned to clean media in contact with the component. A second cleaning component is also located in the cartridge. The second cleaning component is used to clean the first cleaning component. Specifically, the second cleaning component has a contact surface for contacting and cleaning a contact surface of the first cleaning component. The contact surface of the second cleaning component is tackier than that of the first cleaning component. As such, any debris collected by the first cleaning component from the media being cleaned is transferred to the second cleaning component. In this way the first cleaning component is constantly cleaned by the second cleaning component and both are located in a cartridge.

Importantly, each of independent Claims 16, 31, 50, 62, 81, 93, and 97 recite, albeit in somewhat differing language, a cleaning cartridge that comprises:

- a. a first cleaning component structured and arranged to engage and present to a moving media unit being cleaned, a changing first contact surface area; and
- b. a second cleaning component structured and arranged to engage and present to said first cleaning component, a changing second contact surface area.

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wherein the tackiness of said second contact surface area is greater than the tackiness of said first contact surface areas

In other words, the claimed invention recites a cartridge having a first cleaning component that provides a contact area to the media and a second cleaning component for providing a contact area to the first cleaning component that is tackier than the first contact area. The two cleaning components are located in a cartridge so that they can both be removed and replaced.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither the '073 Korbonski patent nor the '469 Nishiwaki patent teaches or suggests a cartridge that comprises a first cleaning component for presenting a contact area to media and a second cleaning component for presenting a contact area to the first cleaning component, as is recited in each of independent Claims 16, 31, 50, 62, 81, 93, and 97. Specifically, as illustrated in Figures 3 and 5, the '073 Korbonski patent discloses a frame 120 that only includes cleaning components 54-58 for cleaning the media.² None of the components 54-58 present a contact area that is tackier to another one of the components 54-58 for cleaning the other component. As best understood, cleaning components 54-58 all have the same tackiness. As further, illustrated in Figures 3 and 5, the '073 Korbonski patent discloses that components 64 and 66 used to clean components 54-58 are not located in the frame 120. Instead components 64 and 66 are separately located in the equipment 50A. The components 64 and 66 for cleaning components 54-58 are nowhere taught or suggested as being located in the frame 120. In the cleaning system of the '073 Korbonski patent the user must separately access the components 64 and 66, instead of removing a cartridge that contains all of the cleaning components, as would be the case with the claimed invention.

Applicant notes that the '469 Nishiwaki patent does not provide the teachings missing from the '073 Korbonski patent. The '469 Nishiwaki patent does not teach or suggest a first cleaning component for presenting a contact area to media and a second

² Applicant notes that the components 54-58 are located in a frame 120. Applicant does not concede that the frame 120 is a cartridge.

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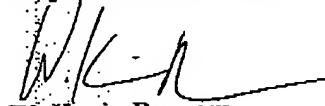
cleaning component for presenting a contact area to the first cleaning component for cleaning the component, much less that these two cleaning component would be in the same cartridge.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amended and the remarks above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' counsel to discuss any outstanding issues so as to expedite the application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

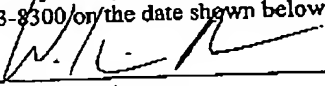
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.


W. Kevin Ransom

10/27/05
Date